THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir The World Bank aided Hydrology Project launched in September, 1995 and scheduled for completion in March, 2002 has been extended by one year *i.e.* up to march, 2003.

(b) In addition to the Hydrology project, two projects namely, Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project-III and Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation Component) are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh with the World Bank assistance of US$ 325 million and US$ 142 million respectively.

(c) to (e) Upto September, 2001 US$ 122.44 and US$ 56.82 million have been utilized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for A.P. Third Irrigation Project and Andhra Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation Component) Respectively. These projects are scheduled for completion by January, 2003 and March 2004 respectively.

Clearance to irrigation Projects in North-Eastern Region

1660. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects of North-Eastern Region awaiting clearance from Government; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The details of five medium irrigation projects of North-Eastern Region submitted to the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal are as follows:-

S.N.	Project	State	Status
1.	Burisiti	Assam	Accepted by Advisory Committee in June 1998 subject to monitoring of Ground Water by the State Government. Investment clearance is held up for want of concurrence of State Finance Department.
2.	Dzuza	Nagaland	Accepted by Advisory Committee in October 1998. Investment clearance is held up for want of concurrence of State Finance Department.
3.	Jiri	Manipur	Accepted by Advisory Committee in August 1999 for investment clearance.

S.N.	Project	State	Status
4.	Garufella	Assam	Received in Central Water Commission in October 1992. Compliance report from State Government to comments of the Central Water Commission is awaited.
5.	Deopani	Assam	Received in Central Water Commission May 1998. Compliance report from State Government to establish techno-economic viability is awaited.

Clearance of the irrigation project depends on the prompt compliance of the observation of Central Water Commission by the State Government.

Ramba-Achancoil Upper Link Project

1661. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Tamil Nadu Government is attempting to collect illegally the river water of "Ramba" and "Achancoil" of Kerala by constructing a Dam at Mekkera;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that proposed Ramba—Achancoil upper link canal project aims at collecting Kerala river water by constructing underground canals; and

(d) whether Government propose to intervene in the matter to stop the action of Tamil Nadu which will adversely affect the interest of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) According to press reports, Government of Tamil Nadu has taken up construction of Mekkera Dam on Hanuman Nadhi. Under the Peninsular Component of National Perspective Plan prepared by Government, inter-linking of Pamba and Achankovil with Vaippar is envisaged for diverting available surplus water in Pamba and Achankovil rivers in Kerala to the deficit Vaippar basin in Tamil Nadu. The feasibility report of the link has been prepared by National Water Development Agency. Implementation of the link proposal would depend on various factors like preparation of detailed project report, consensus among the concerned States and availability of funds etc. The Mekkera Dam is not a part of the proposed Pamba-AchankovilVaippar link.